

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 CU-04 NIC-01

A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 013699

O R 031242Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8685

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 18751

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: ASIAN STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

SUMMARY: SOME FIFTY STUDENTS FROM SIX ASIAN COUNTRIES
CONDUCTED A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY FOR
SOME TWO HOURS DECEMBER 3. AFTER AMBASSADOR KINTNER
SPOKE WITH AND ACCEPTED A LETTER FROM THEM, THEY DEPARTED
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO. END SUMMARY

1. STUDENT DELEGATES FROM SIX ASIAN COUNTRIES (THAILAND,
AUSTRALIA, HONG KONG, CAMBODIA, LAOS, AND SINGAPORE) HELD
A STUDENTS' "ASIAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE" IN BANGKOK FROM
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NOVEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 3. ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM

WAS A PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE AGENDA. TO CAP THE FESTIVITIES, THEY VISITED THE JAPANESE EMBASSY ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 3. THEY PRESENTED A LETTER TO THE JAPANESE MINISTER AFTER LEARNING THAT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR (AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR KINTNER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS) WAS ATTENDING A MILITARY PARADE IN HONOR OF THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

2. SOME FIFTY DEMONSTRATORS, ALONG WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF JOURNALISTS AND HANGERS-ON, ARRIVED AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT 1700. THEY BROUGHT PLACARDS IN MALAY, CHINESE, LAO, AND ENGLISH URGING, IN LURID BUT UNGRAMMATICAL LANGUAGE, THAT AMERICANS AND JAPANESE GET OUT OF ASIA. THEY MADE NO SUGGESTIONS WHERE THE JAPANESE MIGHT GO, BUT CHANTED "YANKEE GO HOME" AS THEY MARCHED INTO THE EMBASSY COMPOUND AND SETTLED ON THE FRONT LAWN.

3. THEY DEMANDED TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR. EMBASSY OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS AT A CEREMONY IN HONOR OF THE KING AND PROFERED THE DCM INSTEAD. AFTER SOME CONSULTATION, THE STUDENTS DETERMINED TO STAY ALL NIGHT IF NECESSARY IN ORDER TO DELIVER A LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY.

4. THE DCM NEVERTHELESS WENT OUT TO TALK WITH THEM ABOUT 1830. HE MENTIONED THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN PARTICIPATING IN A CEREMONY IN HONOR OF THE KING, AND WAS AFTERWARDS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A DINNER WITH SEVERAL THAI OFFICIALS INCLUDING CABINET MINISTERS. HE ASKED WHY THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN WILLING TO GIVE THE OTHER LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY, BUT WERE RELUCTANT TO DO THE SAME AT THE AMERICAN. THE STUDENT SPOKESMAN CITED THE HEADLINE IN THE DECEMBER 2 BANGKOK WORLD IN WHICH THE AMBASSADOR WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WANTED TO TALK TO STUDENTS.

5. AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS THE STUDENTS DECIDED TO STAND FIRM. AMBASSADOR KINTNER STOPPED BY THE EMBASSY ABOUT 1900 FOR A FEW MOMENTS EN ROUTE TO DINNER TO RECEIVE THE LETTER AND TALK WITH THE STUDENTS. HE
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EXCHANGED A FEW WORDS WITH STUDENT SPOKESMAN PRASARN THIRATVERAKUN, CHULALONGKORN STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE. PRASARN HANDED OVER THE LETTER. THE STUDENTS LEFT THE EMBASSY GROUNDS ABOUT 1915 PROMPTLY AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE. THEY LEFT THEIR PLACARDS BEHIND.
KINTNER

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